NOT FOR PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

CARLITO SORIANO MARTINEZ; et al.,	No. 03-71734
Petitioners,	Agency Nos. A70-223-861
v.	A72-512-174
	A72-512-175
JOHN ASHCROFT, Attorney General,	A72-512-176
Respondent.	MEMORANDUM[*]

On Petition for Review of an Order of the
Board of Immigration Appeals

Submitted May 27, 2004[**]

Before: SKOPIL, FARRIS, and BOOCHEVER, Circuit Judges.

Carlito Soriano Martinez ("Martinez") petitions for review of the decision

by the Board of Immigration Appeals ("BIA") to affirm the immigration judge's

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[*]   This disposition is not appropriate for publication and may not be cited to or by the courts of this circuit except as provided by Ninth Circuit Rule 36-3.

[**]   This panel unanimously finds this case suitable for decision without oral argument. See Fed. R. App. P. 34(a)(2).

decision denying his application for asylum and withholding of deportation.[***] We

have jurisdiction under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(1), and we deny the petition.

Martinez has not presented compelling evidence that he was the victim of

political persecution by the New People's Army in the Philippines. Persecution

with an economic motive may qualify as political persecution if "the applicant

[can] produce evidence from which it is reasonable to believe that the harm was

motivated, at least in part, by an actual or implied protected ground." Borja v.

INS, 175 F.3d 732, 736 (9th Cir. 1999) (en banc) (quotations omitted). Martinez

presented evidence of economic extortion only. He did not produce any evidence

that he told the NPA that he opposed them politically, that he was involved in any

political activity, or that the NPA was aware of any opposition. The BIA's

conclusion that the motives of the NPA were purely economic is supported by

substantial evidence.

PETITION DENIED.

[***] Martinez is the lead petitioner. The claims of his wife and two sons are
derivative.